Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 07979 161819Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /071 W
----------170413Z 023022 /13
R 161740Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4639

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 7979

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IT, VT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN BISHOPS SPEAK OUT ON ABORTION AND MARXISM

1. SUMMARY. TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY ITALIAN BISHOPS CONFERRED IN ROME MAY 9-13 ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL ITALIAN BUSHOPS CONFERENCE (CEI). SETTING THE STAGE WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, CARDINAL POMA OF BOLOGNA, WHO IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS MAY 9: REFERRED TO ABORTION WITH "BITTERNESS AND PREOCCUPATION," DECRIED THE PREVAILING CLIMATE OF FIOLENCE AND CRIME, AND ATTRIBUTED THE MANY ILLS AFFLICTING ITALY, INCLUDING CRISIS IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, TO THE GENERAL DECLINE OF VALUES. HE CALLED ON THE BISHOPS TO SHOW "UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ERRING BUT CLARITY ON ERROR." THE BISHOPS, CLAIMING THE RIGHT TO ASSIST THE ITALIAN PEOPLE TO CONSTRUCT THE FUTURE "IN CONFORMITY WITH GOD'S PLAN ON MAN AND THE WORLD" SPOKE OUT FORCEFULLY ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES -- ESPECIALLY CONDEMNING ABORTION AND "AUTHORITATIVELY" HIGHLIGHTING THE INCOMAPTIBILITY OF MARXISM AND CHRISTIANITY.
END SUMMARY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 07979 161819Z

2. THE BISHOPS WERE ESPECIALLY FORCEFUL AND UNAMBIGUOUS ON THE ISSUE OF ABORTION. ON THE EVE OF THE ITALIAN SENATE'S CONSIDERATION OF AN ABORTION LAW, THE BISHOPS SENT A DIRECT APPEAL TO SENATE PRESIDENT FANFANI WITH AN EXHORTATION THAT SENATORS REEXAMINE THEIR CONSCIENCE PRIOR TO APPROVING A LAW WHICH IS CONTRARY TO CHRISTIAN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

MORAL PRINCIPLES AND WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE RELIGIOUS PEACE OF THE COUNTRY BY IMPOSING A LAW WHICH CLEARLY VIOLATES THE CONSCIENCE OF A GREAT PART OF THE POPULATION.

3. A PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT THE CONFERENCE CHARACTERIZED THE CURRENT DRAFT BILL AS "ONE OF THE WORST ABORTION LAWS IN ALL OF EUROPE," AND STATED THAT IF THE LAW PASSED, IT WOULD BE THE DUTY OF CATHOLICS TO FORM CENTERS FOR THE DEFENSE OF LIFE AND TO MIBILIZE AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST ABORTION. (COMMENT: SINCE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE DEFEATED IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE STAGE BY THE PRO-ABORTION BLOC WHICH SHOWED CONSIDERABLE COHERENCE, IT IS NOW EXPECTED THAT THE DC WILL REPROPOSE SOME OF ITS 23 AMENDMENTS IN THE SENATE CHAMBER. MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A FRONTAL CLASH BETWEEN THE DC AND THE PRO-ABORTION LAY PARTIES IN THE SENATE DURING COURSE OF THIS WEEK OR NEXT. END COMMENT)

4. AT THE CONFERENCE THE BISHOPS ALSO RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE CEI ON THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC CONVENTION OF NOVEMBER, 1976 (ROME 20631 - 1976). A SIGNIFICANT SECTION IN THE REPORT, WHICH WAS EXCERPTED AND PUBLISHED PROMINENTLY IN THE VATICAN L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, DEFINED THE CHURCH'S POSITION ON ELECTORAL CHOICES OF CATHOLICS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. IN SECTION DEALING WITH "POLITICAL ENGAGEMENTS AND PLURALISM," THE REPORT STATES THAT TEMPORAL OR ELECTORAL CHOICES ARE FREE WITHIN LIMITS AND CONDITIONS. THESE CHOICES MUST BE COHERENT WITH, AND AT LEAST NOT IRRECONCILABLE WITH, THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE. SUCH CONDITION IS NOT MET "BY THOSE WHO, ALTHOUGH CLAIMING TO BE CHRISTIANS, MAKE A MARXIST CHOICE OR CHOSE TO MILITATE IN POLITICAL MOVEMENTS WHICH SUBSCRIBE TO SUCH MATERIALISTIC AND ATHEISTIC IDEOLOGY." SUCH A CHOICE CANNOT BE "CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE PLURALISM" BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, "IT IS IN CONTRAST WITH... THE CHRISTIAN VISION OF MAN AND SOCIETY."

6. INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND MARXISM IS ALSO UNDERLINED IN SECTION DEALING WITH "CULTURAL MEDIATION," IN WHICH REPORT "URGES CATHOLICS TO REMEMBER, WHEN STUDYING OR CONFRONTING CONCRETE ITALIAN SITUATION, THE MATRIX--ANTHROPOLOGICAL,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

METAPHYSICAL, MATERIALISTIC, NATURALISTIC AND
SECULARISTIC--IN WHICH MARXISM, EVERY TYPE OF
MARXISM, HAS BASED ITS POLITICO-ECONOMIC IDEAS
AND ITS PRACTICE." THE REPORT ALSO ADMONISHES DC TO
REMAIN "FAITHFUL TO ITS CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION..AND (SHOW)
OPERATIVE CONSISTENCY WITH AFFIRMED PRINCIPLES."

7. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FEELS VERY STRONGLY ON THE ABORTION ISSUE. IT IS NOT
EQUALLY OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT THE BISHOP'S STAND
AGAINST ABORTION WILL BE SALUTARY. THE PRESENT
ABORTION BLOC SHOWED SURPRISING COHERENCE IN THE
SENATE AND SO FAR HAS DEFLECTED DC EFFORTS TO AMEND
THE PROPOSED LEGISTLATION. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SOFTENING
AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED IN THE SENATE THROUGH THE
EFFORT OF CATHOLICS ELECTED IN THE PCI ELECTORAL LISTS,
THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE BILL AS PASSED BY THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES REMAINED AND ARE UNLIKELY TO
BE MODIFIED BY THE FULL SENATE. THESE PRINCIPLES
ARE THE DE-PENALIZATION OF ABORTION, THE WOMAN'S
AUTO-DETERMINATION, AND ABORTION AT EXPENSE OF
THE STATE.

8. THE BISHOPS' STATEMENT REGARDING THE INCOMPATI-
BILITY OF MARXISM AND CHRISTIANITY HAS OBVIOUS CURRENT
RELEVANCE--AS IT WAS UNDERLINED BY THE TREATMENT
GIVEN TO IT IN THE VATICAN ORGAN L'OSSERVATORE
ROMANO. THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR: THE CHURCH AND THE
VATICAN ARE CLEARLY OPPOSED TO ANY ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH
WOULD SMACK OF THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE."GARDNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COMMUNISM, BIRTH CONTROL, ABORTION, CATHOLICS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME07979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0348
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770552/aaaabtgj.tel
Line Count: 153
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f555be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2504410
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN BISHOPS SPEAK OUT ON ABORTION AND MARXISM
TAGS: PFOR, IT, VT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f555be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009